

CLAIMS

- 1        1. A method for monitoring the presence of a client from a server via a communications
- 2        network, comprising:
  - 3            establishing a connection with said client via said communications network, wherein
  - 4            said server receives a request;
  - 5            transmitting a static web page to a web browser of said web client related to said
  - 6            request;
  - 7            determining whether data related to said request is ready for transmission to said web
  - 8            client;
  - 9            transmitting said data to said client when said data is ready for transmission; and
  - 10          transmitting a byte stream to said web client, when said data is not ready for
  - 11          transmission.

1           2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           waiting for a response from said client subsequent to said transmitting said byte stream;

3           and

4           if said response indicates said client is present:  
5               determining whether said data related to said request is ready for transmission  
6           to said client, including:

7               transmitting said data to said client when said data is ready for transmission;  
8               transmitting a byte stream to said client when said data is not ready for  
9           transmission; and

10          if said response indicates said client is not present:  
11               aborting said request.

1           3. The method of claim 1, wherein said static page is transmitted to a second browser  
2           window of said client, said second browser window being opened subsequent to said request.

1           4. The method of claim 1, wherein said static page includes a response message  
2           relating to said request.

1           5. The method of claim 1 wherein said request includes a request whereby said data  
2           requested by said client has been located.

1           6. The method of claim 1 wherein said request includes a request that is in progress.

1           7. The method of claim 1, wherein said byte stream includes a null message.

- 1           8. The method of claim 1, wherein said byte stream includes an advertisement.
- 1           9. The method of claim 2 wherein said response includes an error code.
- 1           10. The method of claim 2 wherein said response indicates that said client is present.
- 1           11. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for  
2           monitoring the presence of a web client from a server via a communications network, the  
3           storage medium including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method  
4           comprising:  
5                 establishing a connection with said client via said communications network, wherein  
6                 said server receives a request;  
7                 transmitting a static web page to a web browser of said web client related to said  
8                 request;  
9                 determining whether data related to said request is ready for transmission to said web  
10               client;  
11               transmitting said data to said client when said data is ready for transmission; and  
12               transmitting a byte stream to said web client, when said data is not ready for  
13               transmission.

1           12. The storage medium of claim 11, further comprising instructions for causing a  
2 computer to implement:

3                 waiting for a response from said client subsequent to said transmitting said byte stream;  
4 and

5                 if said response indicates said client is present:

6                         determining whether said data related to said request is ready for transmission  
7 to said client, including:

8                                 transmitting said data to said client when said data is ready for transmission;

9                                 transmitting a byte stream to said client when said data is not ready for  
10 transmission; and

11                 if said response indicates said client is not present:

12                                 aborting said request.

1           13. The storage medium of claim 11, wherein said static page is transmitted to a  
2 second browser window of said client, said second browser window being opened subsequent  
3 to said request.

1           14. The storage medium of claim 11, wherein said static page includes a response  
2 message relating to said request.

1           15. The storage medium of claim 11 wherein said request includes a request whereby  
2 said data requested by said client has been located.

1           16. The storage medium of claim 11 wherein said request includes a request that is in  
2 progress.

- 1           17. The storage medium of claim 11, wherein said byte stream includes a null message.
- 1           18. The storage medium of claim 11, wherein said byte stream includes an  
2           advertisement.
- 1           19. The storage medium of claim 12 wherein said response includes an error code.
- 1           20. The storage medium of claim 12 wherein said response indicates that said client is  
2           present.